THE NEW YORK PRESS.

RESTORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JCULNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPLLED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Warlike Mov "ents in Europe-Ominous Specch of Napoleon.

From the Herald.

The speck of war which a few weeks ago arose from the paltry German quarrel over the Danish duchies has grown into a heavy and portentous cloud, overshadowing the whole European continent. From the Bay of Biscay to the Black Sea there is a general mustering of the nations for war. The news by the Cuba is positively startling. Thus it appears that "the whole Prussian army, in great bodies of troops, is massed along the frontiers;" that "Austria is bringing into the field every man she can raise, and the whole nation is panting fer war;" that Italy is all ablaze with her preparations for battle; that all the German States are arming; that rumors were prevalent at Vienna that Russia had caught the contagion, and was preparing for a hand in the expected struggle; and that even the Sultan had taken the alarm, and that the army of Turkey was to be raised to its full strength.

There appeared to be no hopes of a European Congress, and no signs of mediation. On the contrary, Napoleon had made "a significant speech at Auxerre, in which he said he detested the treaties of 1815"—the treaties under which France was humiliated and razeed by the Holy Alliance. The attitude of France was, from recent accounts, that of perfect freedom in this existing continental imbroglio. In this speech at Auxerre, however, Napoleon withdraws the veil. The treaties of 1815 abolished the empire of Napoleon the First, and wiped out his boundaries, in a reconstruction of the map o France and of Europe; and now Napoleon the Third gives the solemn warning that he detests those treaties. It means that out of the pre-sent difficulties between his German and Italian neighbors he intends a comprehensive abroga-tion of those treaties of 1815, as the sacred duty of the nephew of the imperial memory of his is a Napoleonic idea, which means a general shaking up once more by the Emperor of the Kings and Kaisers of Europe. It means a general European war, and perhaps another

But what are these difficulties which threaten so imminently this expected embroilment of the whole continent? They have grown out of that robber's quarrel between Prussia and Austria over those Danish duchies. Wrested from Denmark by an unholy alliance, Prussia claims the spoils and Austria resents the outrage. They both proceed to arm for war. Young Italy, impatiently watching for her chance to pounce upon Venetia, believes that the hour is at hand, and proceeds to buckle on her armor, by land and sea. And here is the danger. Austria and Prussia, if left to themselves, would probably bluster and persist in the game of frightening each other till both would be ready for a compromise. But the Italians are in earnest, and from the important fact that Napoleon no longer restrains them, we are free to infer that they feel sure of his support. His speech at Auxerre, like his brief New Year's rebuil of 1859 to the Austrian Ambassador, is tantamount to a declara-

tion of war. Mexico, as an equivalent to the House of Hapsburg for Venetia, has failed. Napoleon has, therefore, found it necessary and expedient to put an end to his dubious diplomacy with Austria. He resumes his original role, where it was suspended at the peace of Villafranca, and the arming of Italy is the reopening of the drama. We apprehend, from Napoleon's ominous speech, that in the present posture of these European complications a continental war can be evented only by the speedy interposition of England and Russia in behalf of peace. But as England may prefer the commercial monopolies of a neutral, and as Russia may prefer a settlement with the "sick man of Turkey," the probabilities, as they now appear, are decidedly in favor of a general European war.

The Panic Means War.

Evom the Tribuna. Such is the judgment of the more intelligent classes throughout Europe. They have all but unanimously concluded that Prussia and Italy are leagued to attack Austria, and that Napoleon is secretly backing them. What was before suspicious became conviction when the telegraph, on the 7th inst., startled cabinets and shartered credit by flashing abroad the speech made on the 6th by Napoleon to the Mayor of Auxerre, in response to a complimentary address. Its text is as tollows:-

"I see with pleasure that the memory of the First Empire has not been effected from your minds. Believe me, for my own part. I have inherited the feelings entertained by the chief of m, family for this energetic and patriotic population, who sustained the Emperor in good as in evil fortune. I have a debt of gravitude to discharge towards Yonne. I his department was the first to give me its sufrages in 1848, because it knew, with the majority of the French people, that its interests were my intriests, and that I detested equally with them those treases or 1815 which it is now sought to make the sole basis of our foreign policy. I thank you for the sentiments you have expressed towards my. Among you I breathe freely, for it is among the working population, both in town and country, that I find the real genies of France."

There is no missaking this language. If a great war is not at hand, its author will evidently be sorely disappointed. Hence every Stock Exchange in Europe has the blind staggers; hence the stoppage of payment by such gigantic and but at the stoppage. and hitherto solid concerns as Pero & Betts, railway kings, and Overend, Gurney & Co., bankers; hence the increase of the rate of interest by the Bank of England to the extraordinary figure of ten per cent. Meantime, Europe arms, from Messins to the Vistula, from the British Channel to the Dardanelles; hence the universal and just apprehension of a war as gigantic as and more costly than that which huried back the

first Napoteon from Moscow to Elbs.

There is hardly a chance that peace can be preserved. Each or the prospective belligerents charges the other with the aggressive intent which each disclaims; each says it will not attak; yet each goes on arming to the teeth, though Austria and Italy are virtually bankrupt, and the Prussian King and bis Minister know that they can only plunge their country into a needless war in defiance of their people's wishes and protests. Yet it is plain that, if war were not intended, such enormous ruinous expenses of pre-paration for it would not have been incurred; so all, sadly or gladly, look confidently for war.

We shall now have a chance to return some of the lectures read us by our European monitors some two or three years ago, and to re-purchase some of the bonds they bought of us (at very low figures) in our extremity. With economy, industry, and a good tariff, we may ride out the storm just bursting, unharmed and unshaken.

Foreign Wars and Home Republicanism. From the Daily News

A sober and temperate review of European affairs exhibits the probability of an approaching war upon that continent, in which sil the leading nationalities will be compelled to take part. It is indisputable that the European masses, and especially those identified with Germanic interests, are in a state of exaltation that threatens to precipitate convulsion. The attempt to assassinate the Count Bismark deattempt to assassinate the Count Bismark demonstrates the existence of a popular sentiment intensely hostile to the policy of Bussia, as it is proven and acknowledged that the would-be assassin was the representative of a partisan sentiment, and acted as the accepted executioner of the will of a party in the interest of a political movement. The speech of Napoleon at Auxerre, on the 6th instant, suggests an inclination on the part of the Imperial intriguer to witness the kindling of this warlike fuel into

a general flame; and he is, perhaps, right in supposing that the salety of his dynasty depends upon the present exercise of the vast military power of his empire, in a war of nations that wil causes of disturbance in the gratification of the national ambition for military giory.

It our republic were in its natural condition

of republicanism, we could be simply lookers on upon this show of crowned combatants; spectators gazing from afar upon the arena where these foreign gladiators tested their prowess and wasted their vitality and strength. If we would but be true to the principles that have been our safeguard in the midst of conflicts upon international issues, if we would but obey the precepts of Washington, and be guided by the teachings of Jefferson and other true apostics of Democracy, these dissensions abroad would not occasion a rapple upon the current of our domestic politics. They would, on the contrary, be of value to us by feaching us lessons of pre cious significance; for it is better to profit by the sad experience of others than by our own. But in the present unsettled and abnormal con-dition of the republic, there is no telling how far we may be entangled in the complicated web of international questions with which Europe is now perplexed; and in view of the fact that our country is governed by a ruthless, aspiring, un-scrupulous, and fanatical faction that would not hesitate to adopt any measures that promised their partisan aggrandizement, there is room for apprehension that we may yet be betrayed into a partnership in the evils of their European quarrels.

It is significant that Congress and the Administration preserve a protound silence in regard to all the issues that disturb the outside world. But this reticence must not be accepted as a sign that our Government intends to keep aloot from all participation in the settlement of the questions involved. When the radicals remain lent so long upon any subject of importance, there is reason to fear that they are contemplating some movement that they know is not in accordance with popular opinion. During the war, and when it was impossible to act in the premises, the Federal Congress was very earnest and unanimous in the expression of sym-pathy with the cause of the Mexican republic, and very distinctly "resolved" that the United States were hostile to the empire of Maximilian. But now that there is no barrier between the promises and their fulfilment, we have no Congressional action nor utterance upon the Mexi-

The subject has been quietly dropped, because there is no advantage to the radicals to be gained by its present agitation. So with regard to the conflict between Spain and the South American conflict between Spain and the South American Republics. Congress is most decorously silent wpon that topic, and yet it is one that is of vital importance to the interests of republicanism upon this continent. The duty of the United States, at this crisis, is to protect republicanism in the Western bemisphere, and let the monarchs of the Old World tight it out there to their hearts! content. Our nationality is but little interested in the decision of questions relative to Schles-wig-Holstein, Venetia, and other European locali-ties invested with attributes of chronic disputation; but it is distinctly a part of the Republic's mission to resist the encroachments of European powers against the republicanism of America. Chili, Peru, and Mexico appeal to us legitimately for protection against foreign aggression; and, although it is sate and right for our Government to remain entirely neutral in regard to foreign complications, yet the potentiates of Europe can-not complain if we take advantage of their little troubles to kelp the cause of self-government upon the soil of American Republics.

Dr. Bellows on the President and Congress. CONGRESS TOO BADICAL-THE PRESIDENT REPRE-

SENTING THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE-RISK OF IMPERIALISM IN WASHINGTON. Dr. Bellows delivered a lecture on the 7th inst, on the President, Congress, and the Departments, at his church on the Fourth avenue, giving the results of his observations during a ten days' visit to the national capital. He said that the popular idea was that Washington was a sink of iniquity; but he was happy to say that he had found it did not merit that reputation. It was pre-eminently a church-going city, and the place of residence of a large number of superior persons—retired naval officers, men of fortune and Government officials, who preferred the quiet dignity or public employment to the noisy competition of business or the professions-men of the Charles Lamb stamp, who preferred a clerkship for the leisure it afforded for self-cultivation. Referring to the Senate, he said it was composed of a noble body of men, with a few conspicuous exceptions, and that these were representatives of the intelligence and opinions of the better class

of Americans more than of the majority of the people. There were no prominent giants among them—no Websters, Clays, or Calhouns—but there were no pigmies. The House of Representatives was composed of men more widely representative, inferior, on the whole, to the Senate, but still a splendid legislative body. The life of a member of Congress was a busy one, instead of the idle one some supposed it to be. Some members had to keep two or more sucretaries to attenu to their correspondence. This was a war Congress, and it must be excused for not correctly estimating the drift of the popular mind in a state of peace. It had been accustomed to pess strong measures, and to pursue an exceptional policy; and it was natural that it should still cling to power, and strive to maintain party supremacy. Congress and the President were at issue respecting Southern representation. It was not disposed to admit, without probation, to the councils of the nation those who had but lately been endeavoring to compass its destruction. Congress was true to the principle of the name liberty, but it was in advance of the name in the respective to the principle of the name in the respective to the principle of the name in the respective to the principle of the name in the respective to the name of the name in the respective to the name of the name of the name in the respective to the name of the na advance of the people in its reconstruction policy. It represented the higher intelligence of the country more than the real popular sen-timent in its measures. The President, on the other hand, took the view which the great mass of the people are disposed to take. He assumed that the Southern States had never been out of the Union, and that, therefore, they couldn't come in again. He argued that the war was over, and that all the States were equally entitled to representation. The country must not be checked in its career of progress by either party or an idea. It was to the interest of the entire nation that there should be a real as well as a political reunion of the North and South. The North was even more anxious for this, in a commercial point of view, than the South. Hence the strength of the President's position; and notwithstanding his (in some particulars) retrogressive policy, he Dr. Bellows) beheved it would prevail over that of Congress, which was basing its acts upon mere principles of right. The rising energy and impulsive strength of this great and growing nation could not be stopped or balked. Mr. Johnson was a man whom he had tound honest in his opinions and convictions and acting, he believed, under a strong sense of public duty. He was a Southern man, and an ex-slave owner, and he thought he knew better than Congress what the South needed, and what course it would be best for the Government to pursue. He was much maligned by his enemies, and a talse impression had gone abroad of the character of his private life. He (Dr. Bel-lows) had frequent opportunities while in Wash-ington of observing, and he had formed the opinion that Mr. Johnson was a very temperate and well conducted man. He was quaint and homely in his manner of speaking, with a good deal of rough vivor but with all of deal of rough vigor, but withal of not uncomely presence, and it was impossible to speak with him without feeling confidence in his power and conscientiousness. He thought he was a much and undeservedly abused man. There was, he and undeservedly abused man. There was, he regretted, a seri of imperialism springing up at Washington. It was with Mr. Johnson as with Mr. Lincoln. Call net meetings were held seldom and at irregular intervals; the President acted for himself, without consultation with his Cabinet, in his own sphere, and the Heads of Departments were dictators in their own particular spheres. This was a dangerous feature. There was to much of the one-man power about it, and it called for reform. On the whole Washington was a very pleasant and averagely moral city. Corgress was a little too radical for the people and the times, and the sentiment and interests of the nation were with the President in his ideas regarding reconstruction.—N. Y. Herald.

PRIZE MONEY.

Report of Secretary McCulloch. By the acts of Congress of July and Angust, 1861, all property of the citizens of insurrectionary States, found therein, and all vesses belonging to insurrents, were required, when captured, to be iorfelied, and the proceeds of sale paid into the Ireasury for the use of the United States. The proceeds of large captures of such property, amounting to several millions or dollars, are claimed by mintary and have officers, and they are accordingly along measures, through the Admiralty Courts, to have the property condemned and adjudged to their own use and that or the Naval Pension Fund. The question is now pending before the ion Fund. The question is now pending before the Superior Court, whether such property so captured should be certeited to the United States or for the benefit of the captors. In view of these facts, the House of Representatives recently directed the Scoretary of the Treasury to withhold a distribution of proceeds until the judicial question shall be determined, and requested him to take such means as in his judgment might seem pro-er, to have the claims of the United States, in suca cases, fully heard.

Secreta y McCulloch's reply we give in full:—
'It does not appear by the files of the freasury
Department, that the receipts of any such property
as is described in the above resolution have been cisimed by efficers of the army; nor does it distinctly appear how much, if any, has been claimed by efficers of the navy.

"Certificates in due form of law have from time to

time been reported to this Department since the date of July 13, 1861, of decrees of the proper courts for the distribution of prize mency on captures purporting to be prize of war, six hundred and eighty-seven in number, amounting to \$21,883,188 70, which amount, deducting say one-har credited to mayy pension fund, mas been pand as follows, viz:—

An ount paid officers of the navy..... \$4 762,398-11

Amount paid enhated men of the mayy. 5,841,386 55

distribution as prize, but on which distribution had

"On careful inspection of these thir een cases, it appeared that several of them were vessels or other property within the scope of the resolution; but they were on certificates or distribution as prize, after final acjudication either of the Supreme Court of the United States or of the several district prize courts, the proceeds of which have therefore passed beyong the jurisoiction, of the department, accord-ing to my judgment in view of the tenor of the act of Congress of June 30 1864, entitled 1'An act to regulate prize appropriate and the act to regulate prize proceedings and the dis-tribution of prize money, and for other purposes, which expressly provides 'that the net amount de-creed for distribution to the United States, or to ves-sels of the navy, shall be ordered by the court to be paid into the Treasury of the United States, to be dis-tributed seconding to the degree of the court! tributed according to the decree of the court' (section 16), and which seems in this respect to leave no

tion 16), and which seems in this respect to leave no discretion to the Department.

It turtiver appears that thirty-two cases remain pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, and two hundred and sixty-cight cases in the Circuit and District Couris, in all three hundred cases, all of them nominally cases of prize of war, but more or less of which may be cases of revenue to reiture under the act of July 13, 1861, and other supplementary acts.

supplementary acts.

"Assuming that these three bundred cases of capture represent an everage value of possible proceeds corresponding to that afforded by the six hundred and eighty-seven cases, the amount still in litigation would be equa to, say \$9,555 977.

"Several of the cases, however, have been already adjudicated finally by the courts, although the cert ficates of distribution have not yet reached

this Department "Decucing such cases, there will remain a large number still penoing in the courts, as to which the intervention of the Treasury Department will be lawin and proper for the purpose of ascertaining how many of them are cases of prize of war and how

many are cases of revenue torfeiture under the inter "I have taken steps to investigate the character of al these cases, and to intervene therein so far as it may be just to do so, in behalf of the Treasury De partment; the result of which examination and in-tervent on will in due time, if required, be reported to the house or Representatives.

"I am, respectfully, your obedient *ervant. "H. McCulloch, "Secretary of the Treasury "Hop. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives."

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